

(e) During the course of the biennial audit, the independent auditor, among other things, shall:

(1) Inform the Federal/State joint audit team of any revisions to the final audit program or to the scope of the audit.

(2) Notify the Federal/State joint audit team of any meetings with the Bell operating company or its separate affiliate in which audit findings are discussed.

(3) Submit to the Chief, Enforcement Bureau, any accounting or rule interpretations necessary to complete the audit.

[62 FR 2926, Jan. 21, 1997, as amended at 67 FR 13226, Mar. 21, 2002]

§ 53.213 Audit analysis and evaluation.

(a) Within 60 dates after the end of the audit period, but prior to discussing the audit findings with the Bell operating company or the separate affiliate, the independent auditor shall submit a draft of the audit report to the Federal/State joint audit team.

(1) The Federal/State joint audit team shall have 45 days to review the audit findings and audit workpapers, and offer its recommendations concerning the conduct of the audit or the audit findings to the independent auditor. Exceptions of the Federal/State joint audit team to the finding and conclusions of the independent auditor that remain unresolved shall be included in the final audit report.

(2) Within 15 days after receiving the Federal/State joint audit team's recommendations and making appropriate revisions to the audit report, the independent auditor shall submit the audit report to the Bell operating company for its response to the audit findings and send a copy to the Federal/State joint audit team. The independent auditor may request additional time to perform additional audit work as recommended by the Federal/State joint audit team.

(b) Within 30 days after receiving the audit report, the Bell operating company will respond to the audit findings and send a copy of its response to the Federal/State joint audit team. The Bell operating company's response shall be included as part of the final audit report along with any reply that

the independent auditor wishes to make to the response.

(c) Within 10 days after receiving the response of the Bell operating company, the independent auditor shall make available for public inspection the final audit report by filing it with the Commission and the state regulatory agencies participating on the joint audit team.

(d) Interested parties may file comments with the Commission within 60 days after the audit report is made available for public inspection.

[62 FR 2927, Jan. 21, 1997]

Subpart D—Manufacturing by Bell Operating Companies

§ 53.301 [Reserved]

Subpart E—Electronic Publishing by Bell Operating Companies

§ 53.401 [Reserved]

Subpart F—Alarm Monitoring Services

§ 53.501 [Reserved]

PART 54—UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Subpart A—General Information

Sec.

54.1 Basis and purpose.

54.5 Terms and definitions.

54.7 Intended use of federal universal service support.

Subpart B—Services Designated for Support

54.101 Supported services for rural, insular and high cost areas.

Subpart C—Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support

54.201 Definition of eligible telecommunications carriers, generally.

54.203 Designation of eligible telecommunications carriers for unserved areas.

54.205 Relinquishment of universal service.

54.207 Service areas.

Subpart D—Universal Service Support for High Cost Areas

54.301 Local switching support.

54.303 Long term support.

Pt. 54

47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–04 Edition)

- 54.305 Sale or transfer of exchanges.
- 54.307 Support to a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier.
- 54.309 Calculation and distribution of forward-looking support for non-rural carriers.
- 54.311 Interim hold-harmless support for non-rural carriers.
- 54.313 State certification of support for non-rural carriers.
- 54.314 State certification of support for rural carriers.
- 54.315 Disaggregation and targeting of high-cost support.
- 54.316 Rate comparability review and certification for areas served by non-rural carriers.

Subpart E—Universal Service Support for Low Income Consumers

- 54.400 Terms and definitions.
- 54.401 Lifeline defined.
- 54.403 Lifeline support amount.
- 54.405 Carrier obligation to offer Lifeline.
- 54.407 Reimbursement for offering Lifeline.
- 54.409 Consumer qualification for Lifeline.
- 54.410 Certification and verification of consumer qualification for Lifeline.
- 54.411 Link Up program defined.
- 54.413 Reimbursement for revenue forgone in offering a Link Up program.
- 54.415 Consumer qualification for Link Up.
- 54.416 Certification of consumer qualification for Link Up.
- 54.417 Recordkeeping requirements.

Subpart F—Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries

- 54.500 Terms and definitions.
- 54.501 Eligibility for services provided by telecommunications carriers.
- 54.502 Supported telecommunications services.
- 54.503 Other supported special services.
- 54.504 Requests for services.
- 54.505 Discounts.
- 54.506 Internal connections.
- 54.507 Cap.
- 54.508 Technology plans.
- 54.509 Adjustments to the discount matrix.
- 54.511 Ordering services.
- 54.513 Resale and transfer of services.
- 54.514 Payment for discounted service.
- 54.515 Distributing support.
- 54.516 Auditing.
- 54.517 Services provided by non-telecommunications carriers.
- 54.518 Support for wide area networks.
- 54.519 State telecommunications networks.
- 54.520 Children's Internet Protection Act certifications required from recipients of discounts under the federal universal service support mechanism for schools and libraries.

- 54.521 Prohibition on participation: suspension and debarment.
- 54.522 Eligible services list.
- 54.523 Payment for the non-discount portion of supported services.

Subpart G—Universal Service Support for Health Care Providers

- 54.601 Eligibility.
- 54.603 Competitive bid requirements.
- 54.604 Existing contracts.
- 54.605 Determining the urban rate.
- 54.607 Determining the rural rate.
- 54.609 Calculating support.
- 54.611 Distributing support.
- 54.613 Limitations on supported services for rural health care providers.
- 54.615 Obtaining services.
- 54.617 Resale.
- 54.619 Audits and recordkeeping.
- 54.621 Access to advanced telecommunications and information services.
- 54.623 Cap.
- 54.625 Support for services beyond the maximum supported distance for rural health care providers.

Subpart H—Administration

- 54.701 Administrator of universal service support mechanisms.
- 54.702 Administrator's functions and responsibilities.
- 54.703 The Administrator's Board of Directors.
- 54.704 The Administrator's Chief Executive Officer.
- 54.705 Committees of the Administrator's Board of Directors.
- 54.706 Contributions.
- 54.707 Audit controls.
- 54.708 De minimis exemption.
- 54.709 Computations of required contributions to universal service support mechanisms.
- 54.711 Contributor reporting requirements.
- 54.712 Carrier recovery of universal service costs from end-users.
- 54.713 Contributors' failure to report or to contribute.
- 54.715 Administrative expenses of the Administrator.
- 54.717 Audits of the Administrator.

Subpart I—Review of Decisions Issued by the Administrator

- 54.719 Parties permitted to seek review of Administrator decisions.
- 54.720 Filing deadlines.
- 54.721 General filing requirements.
- 54.722 Review by the Wireline Competition Bureau or the Commission.
- 54.723 Standard of review.
- 54.724 Time periods for Commission approval of Administrator decisions.

Federal Communications Commission

§ 54.5

54.725 Universal service disbursements during pendency of a request for review and Administrator decision.

Subpart J—Interstate Access Universal Service Support Mechanism

- 54.800 Terms and definitions.
- 54.801 General.
- 54.802 Obligations of local exchange carriers and the Administrator.
- 54.803 Universal service zones.
- 54.804 Preliminary minimum access universal service support for a study area calculated by the Administrator.
- 54.805 Zone and study area above benchmark revenues calculated by the Administrator.
- 54.806 Calculation by the Administrator of interstate access universal service support for areas served by price cap local exchange carriers.
- 54.807 Interstate access universal service support.
- 54.808 Transition provisions and periodic calculation.
- 54.809 Carrier certification.

Subpart K—Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism for Rate-of-Return Carriers

- 54.901 Calculation of Interstate Common Line Support.
- 54.902 Calculation of Interstate Common Line Support for transferred exchanges.
- 54.903 Obligations of rate-of-return carriers and the Administrator.
- 54.904 Carrier certification.

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 1, 4(i), 201, 205, 214, and 254 unless otherwise noted.

SOURCE: 62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§ 54.1 Basis and purpose.

(a) *Basis*. These rules are issued pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

(b) *Purpose*. The purpose of these rules is to implement section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 USC 254.

§ 54.5 Terms and definitions.

Terms used in this part have the following meanings:

Act. The term “Act” refers to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Administrator. The term “Administrator” shall refer to the Universal

Service Administrative Company that is an independent subsidiary of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., and that has been appointed the permanent Administrator of the federal universal service support mechanisms.

Competitive eligible telecommunications carrier. A “competitive eligible telecommunications carrier” is a carrier that meets the definition of an “eligible telecommunications carrier” below and does not meet the definition of an “incumbent local exchange carrier” in § 51.5 of this chapter.

Contributor. The term “contributor” shall refer to an entity required to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms pursuant to § 54.703.

Eligible telecommunications carrier. “Eligible telecommunications carrier” means a carrier designated as such by a state commission pursuant to § 54.201.

Incumbent local exchange carrier. “Incumbent local exchange carrier” or “ILEC” has the same meaning as that term is defined in § 51.5 of this chapter.

Information service. “Information service” is the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications, and includes electronic publishing, but does not include any use of any such capability for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.

Internet access. “Internet access” includes the following elements:

(1) The transmission of information as common carriage;

(2) The transmission of information as part of a gateway to an information service, when that transmission does not involve the generation or alteration of the content of information, but may include data transmission, address translation, protocol conversion, billing management, introductory information content, and navigational systems that enable users to access information services, and that do not affect the presentation of such information to users; and

(3) Electronic mail services (e-mail).